GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2021
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007
ENROLMENT IN PRIMARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for promoting education in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented in all States and Union Territories?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT.D.PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c): All the ongoing educational schemes of the Government of India including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal scheme have been formulated taking into account the needs of the children in rural areas. In fact, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality.

The NPE recognises that the rural areas, with poor infrastructure services, will not get the benefit of trained and educated youth, unless rural-urban disparities are reduced and determined measures are taken to promote diversification and dispersal of employment opportunities.Pursuant to this, a large number of schemes are under various stages of implementation, which predominantly address the educational needs of rural areas including technical education. The NPE envisages suitable incentives to be provided to all educationally backward sections of the society, particularly in the rural areas. Hill and desert districts, remote and inaccessible areas and islands will be provided adequate institutional infrastructure.

Accordingly, pace-setting residential schools, Navodaya Vidyalayas, have been established in most parts of the country in rural areas on a given pattern, but with full scope for innovation arid experimentation, Their broad aim will continue to be to serve the objective of excellence coupled with equity and social justice (with reservation for the rural areas, SCs and STs), to promote national integration by providing opportunities to talented children from different parts of the country, to live and learn together, to develop their full potential, and, most importantly, to become catalysts of a nation-wide programme of school improvement. There are 539 functional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country and 28 more have been approved in 2007-08.